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# GWAII HAANAS

NATIONAL PARK RESERVE & HAIDA HERITAGE SITE



*A Pacific coast wilderness in Haida  
Gwaii – the Queen Charlotte Islands.  
Protected through the cooperation of  
the Government of Canada and the  
Council of the Haida Nation*

**PUBLIC PLANNING PROGRAM**

**NEWSLETTER N° 3**

DRAFT STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN  
for the Terrestrial Area

FEBRUARY 1996



*Produced by the*  
**ARCHIPELAGO  
MANAGEMENT  
BOARD**

*A response sheet is included with this newsletter.*

*Offert en français*

# GWAII HAANAS DRAFT STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE TERRESTRIAL AREA

## FOREWORD

In January of 1993, the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation signed the Gwaii Haanas Agreement. In this document, both parties stated their commitment to the protection of Gwaii Haanas, one the world's great natural and cultural treasures. A part of this agreement describes the cooperative management procedures, including establishment of the Archipelago Management Board.

This management plan, produced by the Archipelago Management Board in consultation with the public, sets out strategic objectives for appropriate use and protection of Gwaii Haanas. The plan not only provides comprehensive strategic direction for managing Gwaii Haanas, but it also serves as an example of cooperative effort and marks an important milestone in the relationships of Canada and the Haida Nation.



The management plan is organized into four sections and two appendices.

- Section 1 provides background information on the protection of Gwaii Haanas, summarizes political commitments and outlines the cooperative management arrangements.
- Section 2 details the underlying philosophies, the vision and the specific guiding principles which will be used to provide management direction.
- Section 3 identifies eight key management objectives, including the work to date, the goals, the required actions and the desired results.
- Section 4 describes plan implementation, including the relationship of the management plan to the business plan.
- Appendix 1 provides a socio-economic and environmental assessment summary.
- Appendix 2 provides a glossary of key terms.

The Council of the Haida Nation and the Government of Canada agree and support the contents of this plan and will work together through the Archipelago Management Board to implement the plan's recommendations.

By supporting this plan, the two parties assert their belief in the value and benefit of cooperative management and preservation of Gwaii Haanas.



## **A NOTE FROM THE GWAII HAANAS ARCHIPELAGO MANAGEMENT BOARD**

We are pleased to present the draft Gwaii Haanas Strategic Management Plan (terrestrial component) in this third and final Gwaii Haanas Planning Newsletter. Newsletter 1 set out the purpose and objectives for Gwaii Haanas. Newsletter 2 presented a draft vision and draft guiding principles. The purpose of those newsletters was to provide you with background information on the area, to update you on progress on plan development, and to solicit your participation on the directions the plan should take. The Archipelago Management Board (AMB) reviewed all input received through the newsletter response forms and public information sessions, and considered all recommendations which were within the Board's mandate to address. With that information in hand, the AMB drafted this management plan, which is now being presented for your consideration and involvement.

Those of you who were involved in earlier stages of consultation will notice that the "vision" for the Management Plan seems to have changed. Based on the responses we received to Newsletter 2, we decided it was important to "paint a picture" of Gwaii Haanas in the future, rather than simply listing the points we wanted our vision to address. We developed this "picture" by combining the contents of the original draft with your comments. We hope you will find the picture we have painted to be familiar and harmonious with your vision for the area. The specific approaches for maintaining the vision are set out as goals in Section 3 of the enclosed draft plan.

We believe that this draft plan provides clear direction on how to protect Gwaii Haanas into the future, but we realize that fresh eyes can further improve upon this document's strengths. We encourage you to thoroughly review the draft and provide comments on all its contents. A response form has been included to assist you in this process. Local community information sessions will once again be held as another avenue for public input, and AMB representatives can be available to meet with individuals and groups who have special concerns but cannot attend those sessions.

As always, we appreciate the time that individuals and groups have taken to contribute to the planning process to date, and we look forward to feedback on this draft plan. If you have not participated in the consultation process up to this point, we certainly encourage and welcome you to join us now, in this, the final stage of the planning process.

**How-a. Thank you.**



## COMMENT SHEET

### GWAII HAANAS NATIONAL PARK RESERVE/HAIDA HERITAGE SITE

Please use this sheet to record your comments on such topics as:

- \*Providing Appropriate Tourism Opportunities
- \*Respecting the Cultural Heritage
- \*Maintaining the Special Qualities of the Area
- \*Managing Visitor Use
- \*Protecting the Natural Heritage
- \*Presenting Natural and Cultural Heritage
- \*General Comments

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Please feel free to provide longer comments on additional sheets of paper if needed.

Please mail your comments back in the enclosed postage-paid envelope (Canada only), or send them to Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve/Haida Heritage Site, Box 37, Queen Charlotte City, B.C. V0T 1S0. For further information, please call Michele Deakin at 604-559-6305.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING!

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 DESCRIPTION OF GWAII HAANAS



**G**waii Haanas lies in the southern part of Haida Gwaii, approximately 130 kilometres off the British Columbia coast and 640 km north of Vancouver. The area encompasses 138 islands, including a large part of Moresby Island, and numerous smaller islands. From Cape St. James in the south, to the Tangil Peninsula in the north, Gwaii Haanas extends in a triangular shape for approximately 90 km and includes 1,470 square kilometres of land. Access is by boat and aircraft.

Gwaii Haanas is known for its intact ecosystems, distinct island flora and fauna, and outstanding Haida heritage. Among the hundreds of Haida sites are the remnants of Ninstints village on Sgan Gwaii/Anthony Island. This island was declared a World Heritage Site in 1987. Gwaii Haanas offers exceptional opportunities for people to connect with nature and to experience the Haida world. This rich environment and Haida heritage have made Gwaii Haanas a protected area of international importance.

## 1.2 PROTECTION OF GWAII HAANAS

Concerted efforts to protect Gwaii Haanas were first made in 1981 when logging was proposed for Burnaby Island. As traffic increased, the Haida Nation established the Haida Gwaii (Gwaii Haanas) Watchmen program in the area as a means of looking after significant cultural sites. In 1985, the Haida Nation designated Gwaii Haanas as a Heritage Site. In the same year, a political stand-off over Lyell Island focused the eyes of the world on Gwaii Haanas and it became recognized as a natural area of international significance. At issue was a land ownership dispute and a land use conflict.

## 1.3 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON SOUTH MORESBY

In July of 1987, logging in the area ended when Canada and British Columbia signed the South Moresby Memorandum of Understanding. This memorandum led, a year later, to the Memorandum of Agreement on South Moresby, and the commitment to protect Gwaii Haanas through the designation of a national park reserve. The 1988 agreement committed \$106 million to the development of national parks for both the marine and terrestrial areas, to compensate forest interests, to create a Regional Economic Development Initiative (which evolved in part to the Gwaii Trust) and the South Moresby Forest Replacement Account.



#### 1.4 GWAII HAANAS AGREEMENT

Between 1988 and 1992, the Government of Canada joined with the Council of the Haida Nation to manage the area. During that time, the two parties worked out details of an agreement that would protect Gwaii Haanas and respect the interests of both parties. In January 1993, the two parties signed the Gwaii Haanas Agreement. Although the Haida Nation and the Government of Canada have differing views on ownership of the area, the Agreement was able to get past these differences and establish opportunities for joint effort. Both parties agree that:

*“long-term protective measures are essential to safeguard Gwaii Haanas as one of the world’s great natural and cultural treasures, and that the highest standards of protection and preservation should be applied.”*

*“Gwaii Haanas will be maintained and made use of so as to leave it unimpaired for the benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations. More specifically, all actions related to the planning, operation and management of Gwaii Haanas will respect the protection and preservation of the environment, the Haida culture, and the maintenance of a benchmark for science and understanding.”*

The Gwaii Haanas Agreement is a unique political milestone and world model for cooperative management. In it, the viewpoints regarding sovereignty, title or ownership were expressed by the parties in parallel statements. The following sections are consistent with these viewpoints.

#### Heritage Site

The Haida Nation designated Gwaii Haanas as a Heritage Site under the authority of the Haida Constitution. The Haida Nation’s Gwaii Haanas policies and the Gwaii Haanas Agreement provide direction for managing the area.

The Haida recognize that Gwaii Haanas’ natural and cultural elements are inseparably intertwined, and that protection of Gwaii Haanas is essential to sustaining Haida culture. The Haida Nation also recognizes the value of Gwaii Haanas to the world.

#### National Park Reserve

The Government of Canada designated Gwaii Haanas as a national park reserve for its outstanding natural and cultural heritage. The National Parks Act and Regulations and Parks Canada’s Guiding Principles and Policies govern the operation and management of national parks and national historic sites. The underlying principle that runs through all of these documents is the requirement that national parks will be managed in a manner that ensures the ecological integrity of these special places is protected, maintained, and where possible, enhanced for present and future generations.

In Gwaii Haanas, the specific management prescriptions and directions of the Canada-Haida Agreement also apply. Gwaii Haanas is part of a system of national parks that stretches from coast to coast. These parks each protect representative examples of 39 terrestrial and 29 marine natural regions. Gwaii Haanas joins Pacific Rim National Park Reserve in representing the Pacific Coast Mountains Natural Region.





## 1.5 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Both the South Moresby and the Gwaii Haanas Agreements identified the need to develop a management plan for the land and non-tidal waters of Gwaii Haanas in consultation with the public. This plan meets the requirements of both agreements by setting out long-term direction for the protection, management and appropriate use of the area. The Gwaii Haanas vision, guiding principles and objectives are a framework for decision-making and subsequent detailed planning.

This plan is a blueprint that directs what the Archipelago Management Board will do to safeguard the ecological, cultural and wilderness values of the area. Consistent with the Gwaii Haanas Agreement, the plan identifies the results that both parties are committed to achieving. The plan is the result of extensive consultation, and represents what the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation identify as priorities.

Because the Gwaii Haanas Agreement does not include the marine waters, this management plan only addresses management of the land area. Nonetheless, it cannot help but recognize the close relationship that exists between land and sea. A separate agreement and marine conservation plan will be prepared for the marine area.



A number of factors have added to the complexity and sensitivity of the Gwaii Haanas planning program. The management plan has been produced at a time of rapid political change in Canada. A review of government programs has meant significant restructuring for most federal departments. The British Columbia Treaty Process has dominated the agendas of many Aboriginal groups in British Columbia. These issues have figured prominently at the local level for both Parks Canada and the Haida Nation.

Planning for Gwaii Haanas presents other unique challenges. This is the first time a management board comprised of indigenous and Government of Canada representatives has worked on an equal and cooperative basis to produce a management plan. Since there have been no models to follow, innovation and flexibility have been required to achieve true cooperative management.

## 1.6 SHARED MANAGEMENT

The Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation have agreed to share the management of Gwaii Haanas through the Archipelago Management Board (AMB).

The mandate of the AMB is defined by the commitments in the Gwaii Haanas Agreement and the existing laws and policies of the parties. Under the terms of that Agreement, the AMB will examine all initiatives and undertakings relating to the planning, management and operation of Gwaii Haanas. The Board consists of an equal number of representatives from the two parties. Decisions of the Board are made by consensus.

The Board has adopted a cautious and deliberate management approach to ensure that the proper information is in place, bearing in mind that natural processes will be allowed to unfold while management focuses its attention on minimizing the impacts of people. To build a basis for decision-making, the AMB representatives have concentrated their joint efforts to date on the compilation of natural, cultural and visitor-related information for the coastal areas of Gwaii Haanas.



## 1.7 BRITISH COLUMBIA TREATY PROCESS

The Gwaii Haanas Archipelago Management Plan represents both the Council of the Haida Nation's and the Government of Canada's understanding of their reciprocal good faith and common cause in the protection, preservation and use of Gwaii Haanas, and is without prejudice to the viewpoint of either party respecting sovereignty, ownership or title. This management plan shall not constitute or be deemed to constitute a land claims agreement or treaty within the meaning of Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, nor shall it or any actions taken pursuant to it be construed as creating, affirming, recognizing or denying any aboriginal or treaty right or as transferring any competence of either party.



## 1.8 PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES STATEMENT

The Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation agree that Gwaii Haanas will be maintained and made use of so as to leave it unimpaired for the benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations.

This will ensure:

- dynamic and naturally evolving ecosystems
  - which sustain biodiversity within the terrestrial and marine area
  - that provides excellent representation of the terrestrial Pacific Coast Mountains Natural Region and remote island ecology
  - that are important to science for the study of adaptation and evolution
- an outstanding natural and cultural area
  - where public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment are permitted in a manner that leaves the area unimpaired for this and future generations
  - where human beings can acquire respect for nature through experience
  - where visitors experience the environment on its own terms
- protected Haida heritage values
  - where living Haida culture can continue to evolve in an ecologically sustainable manner
  - where significant sites, such as the World Heritage Site of Sgan Gwaii and the hundreds of other Haida archaeological and historic sites, provide continuity with the living Haida culture
- other heritage values
  - where people from different cultures can interact and learn from each other
  - where post-contact heritage, including historical and industrial era sites, provide insights into other aspects of Gwaii Haanas' history
  - where sustainable tourism exerts a positive socio-economic impact on the surrounding region



# TOWARDS THE FUTURE

## 2.1 THE PHILOSOPHY



Gwaii Haanas is a serene and wild place where natural processes occur unimpeded and where humans accept that they are part of this natural order.

Humanity has a need for places to reflect on the genuineness of societal values – places to expand beyond the dimensions of the day to day grind and to fortify the body, mind and spirit – places for our ancestors and those that follow us. Gwaii Haanas provides people with such a touchstone, whether they visit the area or not.

The world needs places like Gwaii Haanas. This area has intrinsic worth, regardless of how humans measure its usefulness. The well-being and diversity of life flourishes in Gwaii Haanas.

Respect for the area developed through knowledge and understanding will be the surest means of protection for Gwaii Haanas.

## 2.2 THE VISION

Looking ahead to see Gwaii Haanas in the year 2010 and beyond ...

As the pounding seas of Pacific winter storms subside, a sense of renewal stirs in Gwaii Haanas. Eagles cruise the rain-drenched shorelines, watching, waiting. River otters patrol the beaches and coves. The Kaaw fishers know that the herring are coming.

Overnight, in sheltered bays and beaches lining the shore of a large inlet, the water turns milky green with herring spawn. A tribe of sea lions arrives to feast, wary of a pod of orcas circling offshore. Flocks of gulls, excited by the opportunity, create a frenzy of activity on the water. Below the surface, all manner of sea life congregates to share the bounty.

As the days grow longer, flocks of migrating birds pass through on their journeys along the coast. A raven watches an old man and his grandchild walking down the beach. Seabirds come in from the Pacific by the thousands, making ready their nests in the forest floor, tree tops, and rocky promontories. All of the bird colonies have expanded and grown dramatically since control measures on raccoons and rats were initiated.

Birders from around the globe come to witness the spectacle. At night, a sailboat drifts by as people on deck listen with bated breath to the call of parent murrelets beckoning their young to the sea. As day breaks, a falcon swoops, knocking a murrelet out of its flight; the guests watch with mixed emotion as the raptor retrieves its prey.

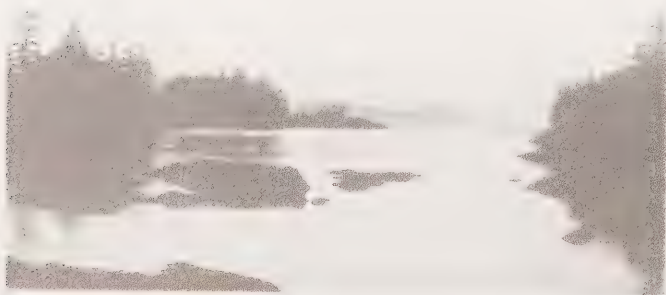
With the coming of summer, visitors from all over the world begin to arrive. Each one of them shares the sensation of being the first person to set foot here. Advance information provides the visitor with the necessary knowledge to respect the land. In this way, the need for more direct management controls is reduced.

At a year round cultural camp, people of all ages immerse themselves in the cultural and natural heritage of Gwaii Haanas. Among their activities is a trip in a Haida canoe to a nearby village site. Along the way they stop to jig cod, which are once again plentiful. As evening falls, dinner is followed by song and stories passed down through countless generations. A drum beat resonates with the spiritual power of the earth, awakening a personal connection to the natural world.

At Windy Bay, a party of three kayakers is greeted by the Watchmen. Outside the longhouse, the kayakers describe a pod of killer whales they encountered off the point to a group of students on a six week field course in Gwaii Haanas. After tea and socializing, the kayakers make their pilgrimage into the ancient forests.

As the days cool and the rains return, the ground becomes saturated and the creeks begin to swell. Activities shift to a creek mouth where a cacophony of sounds build as eagles, martens, gulls and seals gather to watch a bear feast on salmon from the creek. His skills are critical for their survival as well as his own. Remote control video cameras cause no interference while capturing the whole performance. Satellite connections allow students to link in from anywhere in the world to share the moment.

Winter arrives with a vengeance with winds over 100 km/hour creating six metre swells that pound the West Coast. A sea otter takes refuge in a protected cove until the winds ease and he can resume his feeding. All creatures yield and retreat when the power of winter unleashes itself over Gwaii Haanas. With the passing of the winter solstice, however, and the lengthening of the days, there stirs again the springtime of new beginnings.



## 2.3 THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following set of principles will guide the AMB when they make decisions about the planning, management and operation of Gwaii Haanas. Guiding principles reflect the vision and set out management standards.

### Heritage Integrity

The first consideration in any management decision will be to preserve the integrity of the ecosystem and the cultural heritage values.

### Cooperative Management and Consensus

The Haida Nation and Parks Canada will share in the planning, management and operation of Gwaii Haanas. Decisions of the AMB will be reached by consensus based on scientific and traditional knowledge.

### Cultural Continuity

Haida culture is the traditional relationship of Haida people to Haida Gwaii. Haida cultural and traditional activities are a part of the ecosystem and will continue in Gwaii Haanas in an ecologically sustainable manner.

### Understanding Human-Land Relationships

Gwaii Haanas will be managed in a manner that accepts that human beings are a part of the natural world.

### Spiritual Values

Gwaii Haanas is considered to be a sacred place and the spiritual values that people find in Gwaii Haanas will be respected.

### Productive Partnerships

The AMB will work with a broad range of governments, agencies, the private sector and individuals to achieve common goals and objectives.



### Continued Learning

Applied scientific research, monitoring and analysis will be fundamental tools used alongside traditional knowledge to broaden understanding and to make informed management decisions.

### Visitor Use

The AMB recognizes the need to provide for appropriate activities, managed in ways which contribute to heritage protection, minimize user conflicts and enhance public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment.

### Facility Development

Facilities in Gwaii Haanas will be kept to a minimum and will be considered only when they complement public health and safety, cultural, or educational purposes.

### Commercial Harvesting Restrictions

There will be no extraction or harvesting by anyone of the resources of the lands and non-tidal waters of Gwaii Haanas for or in support of commercial enterprise, except for the trapping of fur-bearing animals or the cutting by Haida of selected trees for ceremonial purposes or for artistic purposes intended for public display.

### Ongoing Public Involvement

Management will solicit public involvement in the planning processes in a variety of ways including meetings and presentations with interest groups, surveys and ongoing feedback.

### Appropriate Marketing

People seeking a challenging north pacific wilderness destination and a Haida cultural experience are drawn to Gwaii Haanas. This specific tourism “niche” will complement and contribute to other Islands

tourism marketing opportunities. Gwaii Haanas will be promoted as an aspect of sustainable tourism for the Islands. It will be a place where numbers will be controlled so as to ensure the quality of the visitor experience offered and to minimize environmental impacts.

### Sound Financial Management

In order to reduce reliance on public funds, Gwaii Haanas will adopt a creative approach to financing its programs and services such as user-pay programs, corporate sponsorship, endowment funds, saleable publications, etc.

### Accountability

The Archipelago Management Board is accountable to the Council of the Haida Nation and the Government of Canada for the application of, and adherence to, these principles.

*The successful management of  
Gwaii Haanas is the responsibility  
of this generation to future generations.  
Fulfilling the Gwaii Haanas vision and  
adhering to the guiding principles will require  
commitment, dedication and cooperation.*

*The cooperative management  
arrangement between the Governments  
of the Haida Nation and Canada  
can serve as a model*

*of how two parties with  
different views can work together  
to protect special areas of the world.*



## 2.4 LAND USE APPROACH

This land management approach will provide for the perpetuation of ecosystems with minimal human interference while offering opportunities for visitors to experience the area's natural and cultural heritage values. Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience remoteness and solitude. Outdoor recreation activities which are within the capacity of the area's ecosystems, and which require few, if any, rudimentary services and facilities will be permitted.

For purposes of protection and management, construction of facilities will be kept to the necessary Watchmen camps, required operational facilities, and essential shelter and facilities for Haida cultural activities and sustainable, traditional renewable resource harvesting activities as set out in Section 6.1 (ix) of the Gwaii Haanas Agreement.

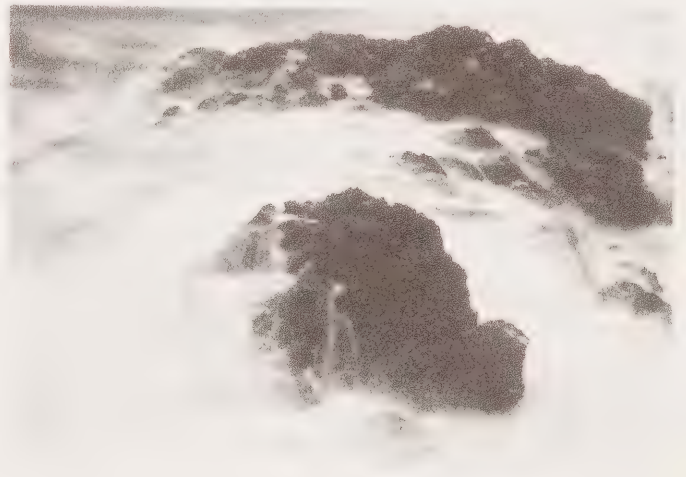
Fixed-roof commercial permanent accommodation will not be permitted in Gwaii Haanas except where required for emergency purposes. Specific areas or features which deserve special preservation because they contain or support unique, threatened, or endangered natural or cultural features will receive special management consideration.

## 2.5 ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

Ecosystem-based management recognizes that people, the economy and the environment are dependent upon and connected to each other for survival. The goal is the maintenance of a healthy natural environment, providing us another species with the life sources to thrive while still conserving natural systems. It is an approach that emphasizes nature's interrelationships, including the essential links between humans and the natural world.

Ecosystem-based management will involve:

- working with others to share information, advice and ideas to safeguard Gwaii Haanas.
- viewing Gwaii Haanas as a valuable part of larger regional ecosystems. By integrating Gwaii Haanas into the broader Islands landscape context, it can make a key contribution to the sustainability of regional ecosystems.
- considering the impact of people in all decisions related to Gwaii Haanas. The goal is to see that people are properly informed before they enter Gwaii Haanas so that they will have little impact as they visit and become a part of this area.
- monitoring the state of the environment, and the quality of the wilderness experience.





# MANAGEMENT GOALS



Management will be responsible for pursuing eight key goals to achieve the vision. Strategies and actions must support these goals in order to deliver the expected results.

Many activities are already underway; for example, major inventories of the natural and cultural heritage of Gwaii Haanas have begun. The management plan has confirmed that these actions contribute to the vision. Now these broad-scale inventories must be

followed up. Research and monitoring programs are required to increase the understanding of environmental processes, improve protection methods and respond to potential threats.

All activities relate to our primary mandate of protecting Gwaii Haanas. In this way, Haida culture will thrive and visitors will appreciate the ecological, cultural and spiritual qualities of Gwaii Haanas. The eight goals are as follows:

## **1. Protecting Natural Heritage**

- protect the natural heritage of Gwaii Haanas in order to maintain its ecosystem in perpetuity and to provide a benchmark for scientific and human understanding and a repository of genetic diversity.

## **2. Respecting Cultural Heritage**

- protect, understand and appreciate Haida cultural heritage and all aspects of post-contact heritage in order to understand the human dimensions of Gwaii Haanas.

## **3. Sustaining the Continuity of Haida Culture**

- recognize the integral relationships of Haida culture within the natural world and provide for continuation of cultural activities and traditional resource harvesting activities through the protection of Gwaii Haanas.

## **4. Presenting Natural & Cultural Heritage**

- create a public awareness and understanding of the natural, cultural and spiritual values of Gwaii Haanas.

## **5. Managing Visitor Use**

- provide opportunities for visitors to have a safe and enjoyable experience without compromising the ecological and social carrying capacities of Gwaii Haanas.

## **6. Providing Appropriate Tourism Opportunities**

- ensure that tourism is environmentally friendly, has a low impact, respects the ecological and spiritual values of Gwaii Haanas and benefits the Islands community.

## **7. Demonstrating Environmental Responsibility**

- reduce or mitigate all aspects of negative human impact on Gwaii Haanas.

## **8. Managing Information for Integrated Decision-Making**

- use the best information that is available from all sources to make reasoned management decisions on projects that may impact on the land.

## 3.1 PROTECTING NATURAL HERITAGE

### CURRENT SITUATION

Gwaii Haanas is part of a large and complex ecological system that is under growing global pressures such as ecotourism, declining biodiversity and climatic change. There are additional local pressures that threaten Gwaii Haanas, including introduced species.

Because Gwaii Haanas is part of the larger Islands ecosystem, resource extraction industries on neighbouring lands and waters, such as logging and fishing, may also contribute to cumulative impacts on Gwaii Haanas ecosystems.

### WORK TO DATE

A major inventory of the coastal and terrestrial areas provides terrain, soil, aquatic, vegetation and wildlife information on Gwaii Haanas. This information forms the database of the geographic information system (GIS). Logging roads on Lyell Island have been deactivated and hillside drainage patterns are stabilizing.

A number of research projects have been undertaken including a study of the mitochondrial DNA of selected birds and mammals, intertidal studies of Dolomite Narrows and Murchison Faraday Passage, and studies of estuarine ecology. Interagency monitoring and control strategy protocols are being developed.

### GOAL

To protect the natural heritage of Gwaii Haanas in order to maintain its ecosystems in perpetuity and to provide a benchmark for scientific and human understanding and a repository of genetic diversity.

### STRATEGIES

#### 1. Provide the information managers need to make decisions.

Continue to add to the inventory database by collecting information about the area's natural heritage.

- fill information gaps in the inventory
- update the database regularly
- include information in the GIS
- update the resource description analysis and the conservation strategy
- record traditional Haida environmental knowledge on the plants and animals of the terrestrial area

Establish a baseline for monitoring changes in the ecosystem.

- identify indicators of healthy ecosystems e.g. the health of top predators such as eagles and bears.

Assess the distribution and abundance of species and habitats, native to Gwaii Haanas, that are representative as well as endangered, threatened or vulnerable; implement conservation actions.

Develop and implement a science and conservation strategy.

Set up a committee to advise on scientific matters and to help establish ecosystem indicators and benchmarks.

Provide opportunities for staff to keep up to date on scientific developments related to their positions.





**2. Identify, monitor and mitigate changes and emerging threats to the ecosystems of Gwaii Haanas.**

Develop an effective long term field monitoring and conservation program based on the continual updating of information.

- identify and, if necessary, close areas to reduce the impact of visitors on the environment – e.g. seabird colonies
- evaluate, monitor and, if necessary, rehabilitate damaged areas which are unlikely to recover naturally or are contaminated
- identify and assess the risks to Gwaii Haanas from external extractive industries
- develop a vegetation management plan with a clear strategy for protecting and managing flora in damaged areas and for managing and controlling introduced species
- update the oil spill contingency plan
- apply the environmental assessment process to projects which have the potential to disturb, the environment

Monitor the cumulative effects of all actions to ensure that the long-term ecological integrity and the quality of the wilderness experience are protected.

Prepare and implement a plan to manage introduced species in order to minimize their impact on indigenous species and their habitats.

Establish a field base and fuel storage depots as required for operations and monitoring.

- develop a field base to meet essential needs for heritage conservation and protection, emergency response, public safety operations and visitor assistance
- ensure that structures are compatible with their surroundings

**3. Enlist the active involvement and support of the Islands community, visitors, neighbouring land managers, commercial operators and the general public in the management and protection of natural heritage.**

Where species, ecosystems, aesthetic considerations and landscapes cross Gwaii Haanas' boundaries, collaborate on their protection with neighbouring land managers and other interested individuals and organizations.

- identify areas of joint concern
- identify ways to minimize ecological/aesthetic impacts
- work with neighbouring agencies and organizations to ensure that the AMB's mandated responsibilities are not compromised
- maintain the aesthetic quality of popular travel corridors to Gwaii Haanas
- help neighbouring managers adopt an integrated approach to resource management with the objective of reducing their impact on Gwaii Haanas and reducing the impact of Gwaii Haanas' operations on adjacent areas
- set up collaborative management agreements and programs with adjacent land owners and land management agencies

Work with governments, agencies, universities, conservation organizations, institutions and individuals to develop programs for the collection, storage, analysis and interpretation of data.



**4. Use communication and partnership programs as primary tools to promote conservation ethics and to reduce the need for more direct management controls.**

Increase public awareness of, and support for, the science program and management issues that relate to natural heritage.

- implement an appropriate communications program
- publish completed scientific reports, resource studies and related documents, through private organizations where possible
- involve local people, where feasible, in research and monitoring programs
- require all research and monitoring projects to include a communications plan
- foster a greater awareness of the importance of the human-land relationship and of our individual and collective responsibilities as stewards of the land
- foster research opportunities and partnerships that contribute to a better understanding of Gwaii Haanas and its protection needs
- take an advocacy position on actions that affect the biodiversity and ecological integrity of Gwaii Haanas and the Islands in general



**5. Identify and protect specific areas or features which deserve special preservation because they contain or support unique, threatened or endangered natural features, or are among the best examples of the features that represent a natural region. Preservation is the key consideration.**

Map information as use is required and/or requested.

Effect necessary seasonal, temporal or permanent closures as required to ensure protection of natural heritage, and reexamine these closures during the plan's five year review.



**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- protected, healthy ecosystems, which support representative species assemblages and conserve biodiversity
- cooperative working relationships
- credible applied science programs
- an informed public that understands the importance of maintaining ecological integrity and biodiversity and supports appropriate management actions



## 3.2 RESPECTING CULTURAL HERITAGE

### CURRENT SITUATION

Ninstints, Horspring Island, Windy Bay, Tanu and Skedans are the most frequently visited cultural sites in Gwaii Haanas. Skedans and Tanu are outside the national park reserve boundaries but within the Haida Heritage Site boundaries.

The AMB manages all the cultural sites through the Haida Gwaii Watchmen program. Deterioration of the sites' cultural features, especially at the World Heritage Site of Sgan Gwaii/Anthony Island, is of particular concern. Site planning has been initiated to address these problems. Natural erosion threatens some archaeological sites. Many visitors select campsites that are located on cultural sites without an awareness of potential impacts.

### WORK TO DATE

Research in Gwaii Haanas has provided a chronology of changes in sea level and a picture of past environmental conditions, including a history of plant colonization. A major inventory of archaeological sites has resulted in the discovery of about 500 Haida archaeological and historical features. The earliest evidence of human occupation discovered so far is 9,000 years old.

The AMB has begun site planning and conservation programs, including basic facility upgrading at most camps. Haida oral history, language, stories and songs have been recorded. Haida place names have been mapped. A number of non-Haida historic sites have also been recorded.

### GOAL

To protect, understand and appreciate Haida cultural heritage and the evidence of all aspects of post-contact heritage in order to understand the human dimensions of Gwaii Haanas.

### STRATEGIES

1. Provide the information managers need to make decisions that are based on scientific research and traditional Haida knowledge.

Establish a cultural heritage database by collecting archaeological, historical and ethnographic information.

- complete the inventory and the description and analysis phase, including both cultural and palaeoecological components
- carry out applied research, (including test excavation and scientific analyses) at selected archaeological sites, to obtain information to interpret the archaeological record and to enhance our knowledge of early Haida history
- include the archaeological, historical, ethnographic and paleoenvironmental record in the Geographical Information System and prepare a written synthesis
- update the database regularly
- develop information and publication programs based on research programs
- continue inventories of legends, songs, place names, language, traditions and other facets of Haida culture

Encourage and support continuing studies into post-glacial history and shoreline development of Gwaii Haanas.

Develop methods to provide any necessary protection of intellectual or material property.





**2. Protect cultural heritage by identifying, monitoring and mitigating the impact of undesirable changes or potential threats.**

Develop a cultural heritage conservation strategy based on the evaluation of archaeological sites, historical sites, cultural landscapes and collections.

- prevent, or mitigate, the impact of threats to cultural heritage integrity
- determine accountability and encourage the rehabilitation of sites adversely and significantly affected by industrial activities
- carry out archaeological impact assessments for projects which disturb or have the potential to disturb archaeological resources as part of the environmental assessment process
- prepare detailed assessments of threatened archaeological sites (e.g. midden sites affected by erosion or camping)
- minimize the impact of visitors on cultural heritage through communication and education programs
- identify and undertake interim protection measures to preserve cultural heritage from natural deterioration
- set up a program to monitor the cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and artifacts
- educate staff in understanding, appreciation and management of cultural heritage

**3. Develop site plans for specific areas requiring attention.**

Site plans may need to address issues of:

- guiding and controlling human activity
- human waste management
- potable water requirements
- facility and trail requirements

Special management attention will be given to Hotspring Island. The area plan will address facility upgrading and development, taking into account public health, environmental impact and ecological issues.

Special management consideration will be given to Sgan Gwaii/Anthony Island in order to manage the site to the standards required for World Heritage Sites.

Identify cultural heritage conservation requirements considering the living Haida culture.

Effect necessary seasonal, temporal or permanent closures as required to ensure protection of cultural heritage, and reexamine these closures during the plan's five year review.



**4. Use communication and partnership programs as primary tools to build awareness of cultural heritage and to reduce the need for management control.**

Increase public awareness of, and support for, the cultural heritage management program.

- publish the appropriate written material
- involve local people in research, communication and monitoring programs where feasible
- include a communications component in all research projects
- foster a greater awareness of the importance of the human-land relationship and of our individual and collective responsibilities as stewards of the land
- develop a communications program for the Watchmen program

Encourage cooperative ventures with other partners to protect and present cultural heritage.

- continue existing working partnerships and foster new partnerships
- encourage the exchange of information with other organizations responsible for cultural heritage with consideration of cultural and intellectual property rights
- work with Islands communities on presenting the historical and industrial eras

Take an advocacy position for integrity of cultural heritage integrity of Gwaii Haanas and the Islands in general.



**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- a source of information that will add to our understanding of cultural heritage
- an opportunity for visitors to understand and appreciate the relationship of the Haida people within the natural environment
- visitors who respect the cultural heritage of Gwaii Haanas and act accordingly
- protected archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and collections



### 3.3 SUSTAINING THE CONTINUITY OF HAIDA CULTURE

#### CURRENT SITUATION

While many perceive Gwaii Haanas as wilderness, people have lived here for thousands of years. Gwaii Haanas is the legacy of people living and prospering in harmony with an ever-changing landscape. Gwaii Haanas remains a source of inspiration and sustenance for the Haida people. The Council of the Haida Nation designated the area as Gwaii Haanas Heritage Site to ensure that this opportunity to be in touch with the land remains for this generation and generations to come.

The presence of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen in Gwaii Haanas is a critical element in protecting sensitive sites and in educating visitors. Protecting sensitive sites by their presence, the Haida Gwaii (Gwaii Haanas) Watchmen are able to help visitors understand Haida culture.

#### WORK TO DATE

While sustaining continuity of Haida culture is the primary responsibility of the Haida people, the AMB has contributed towards this objective by initiating the most comprehensive archaeological work on the Islands to date. This work has been accomplished through ethnographic research, including stories, songs, histories, by contributing to the Watchmen Program, and by improving facilities in Gwaii Haanas.

#### GOAL

To recognize the integral relationships of Haida culture within the natural world and provide for continuation of Haida cultural activities and traditional renewable resource harvesting through the protection of Gwaii Haanas.

#### STRATEGIES

##### 1. Support Haida efforts to protect and present their culture.

Continue the Watchmen program as an integral part of the management of Gwaii Haanas and encourage the participation of Haida elders and youth in this program.

- enhance the public safety and communication capabilities of the Watchmen
- assist in recruitment and training strategies
- identify long term operational and funding requirements with the goal of introducing a fee to cover part of the costs of the program.

Openly share and exchange information relevant to management issues and operational strategies.



##### 2. Provide for continuation of Haida cultural activities and traditional renewable resource harvesting in an ecologically sustainable manner.

Complete inventories for purposes of evaluating sustainability.

- Develop a cooperative system with the CHN to monitor harvesting activities.

- Ensure the sustainability of harvesting through the development of effective control mechanisms.

- Review proposals for construction related to these cultural and traditional resource activities.

- Conduct Haida ceremonies at appropriate times (e.g. house openings and pole raisings).

- Encourage physical expressions of Haida culture, such as totem poles and Haida motifs, in Gwaii Haanas.

- Use the Haida architectural motif in the building standards where practicable.

##### 3. Support the concept of a Haida cultural camp in Gwaii Haanas.

Support the camp's cultural, environmental and educational programs and the principle of sharing this knowledge cross-culturally.

Support efforts to make the camp self-supporting.



#### EXPECTED RESULTS

Successful implementation of these strategies means that

- Gwaii Haanas will be a place that sustains the continuity of Haida culture
- visible signs of Haida culture, including internationally significant cultural features, will remain for future generations to understand and appreciate
- visitors will better understand and appreciate the Haida culture and their relationship to the land
- opportunities will be available for young people to experience Gwaii Haanas



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Complete inventories for purposes of evaluating sustainability.

Develop a cooperative system with the CHN to monitor harvesting activities.

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Review proposals for construction related to these cultural and traditional resource activities.

Conduct Haida ceremonies at appropriate times (e.g. house openings and pole raisings).

Encourage physical expressions of Haida culture, such as totem poles and Haida motifs, in Gwaii Haanas.

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Successful implementation of these strategies means that

- Gwaii Haanas will be a place that sustains the continuity of Haida culture
- visible signs of Haida culture, including internationally significant cultural features, will remain for future generations to understand and appreciate
- visitors will better understand and appreciate the Haida culture and their relationship to the land
- opportunities will be available for young people to experience Gwaii Haanas

## 3.4 PRESENTING THE NATURAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE

### CURRENT SITUATION

Reception, orientation and pre-trip planning services are provided at the Sandspit and Queen Charlotte offices of Parks Canada. Commercial operators and the Haida Gwaii Watchmen have the most contact with visitors.

Some visitors come to the Islands with unrealistic expectations. They are unprepared for the effort and/or expense required to travel in Gwaii Haanas. People often have little information about the area's facilities and services, history, cultural values, and management requirements.

### WORK TO DATE

A trip-planning guide helps visitors plan a safe and enjoyable visit by providing accurate information on access, natural hazards, public safety, weather and marine conditions.

A voluntary registration system has been developed to monitor visitor use.

Special presentations and displays provide visitors and local residents with opportunities to learn more about particular facets of natural and cultural heritage.

### GOAL

To create a public awareness and understanding of the natural, cultural and spiritual values of Gwaii Haanas.

### STRATEGIES

1. **Provide people with information on Gwaii Haanas so that they can better understand and respect the area.**

Communicate these key messages:

- the value of maintaining representative ecosystems which sustains biodiversity in the terrestrial area, specifically the Pacific Coast Mountains Natural Region
- the significance of Gwaii Haanas to Haida culture and the value remaining in the area
- the value of Gwaii Haanas in protecting vulnerable, threatened and endangered plants and animals
- the historical value of Gwaii Haanas' rich and interesting industrial era sites
- the importance of protecting Gwaii Haanas so that it remains unimpaired for future generations





**2. Develop specific communication products as needed.**

Develop a Gwaii Haanas guide book.

Develop a training package for tour operators.

Produce an annual report for the Islands outlining accomplishments and progress on major initiatives.

Publish the results of Gwaii Haanas research in regular reports and newsletters.

Contribute to a newsletter for the Watchmen program.

Communicate the requirements for and the results of applied research in ecosystem and archaeological studies.

Explain regulations and their role in protecting ecological and cultural integrity.

Develop a media relations program



**3. Link communication strategies on Gwaii Haanas to global environmental and cultural issues.**

Reach out locally, nationally and internationally in the development of Gwaii Haanas communications programs.

Pursue cooperative programming and information sharing with conservation and educational organizations.

Encourage community participation in activities that will expand their knowledge, support and understanding of the protected area.

Foster an understanding of the area's terrestrial and cultural resources, the role of Gwaii Haanas as a protected area, external threats to the area's integrity and Gwaii Haanas' significance to sustainable development.

Position Gwaii Haanas as a valuable aspect of life on the Islands and of a visitor's experiences; Gwaii Haanas should complement local community programming.

**4. Work with partners, the communities and volunteers.**

Involve partners in the delivery of communication programs.

Explore the role of the private sector in providing related services and products in regions surrounding Gwaii Haanas.

Obtain local public input to the management plan and key area plans.

Develop a community relations program for the Islands.

Enlist the help of the media to deliver messages about Gwaii Haanas.

Study the need for a volunteer program to complement communications programs.

Work with commercial operators in the delivery of appropriate messages.

- develop an orientation program

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- improved local, regional and national awareness and understanding of Gwaii Haanas and its management strategies
- improved opportunities for the public to become involved in the Gwaii Haanas program
- improved interaction with Islands residents and land managers
- visitors who are well prepared for a trip to Gwaii Haanas and who understand the importance of not disturbing the natural and cultural environment





## 3.5 MANAGING VISITOR USE

### CURRENT SITUATION

In 1994, some 2,560 people spent a total of 13,722 nights in Gwaii Haanas. This exceeds the combined backcountry visitor nights for Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay, Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks. About half these visitors were from British Columbia. The remainder came, in almost equal numbers, from overseas, Alberta, other parts of Canada, and the United States. Most visited in July and August. Recent years have seen a substantial increase in the number of day users. Visitors express a clear interest in wilderness experiences and learning about Haida culture.

Independent visitors can voluntarily register at the Gwaii Haanas offices, the Haida Gwaii Watchmen office in Skidegate or at the Watchmen base camps. Tour operators register the guests who travel with them into the protected area.

Most visitors enter the area by float plane, sailboat, and motor boat, and travel in Gwaii Haanas primarily in kayaks. Although random camping is recommended, popular sites receive a majority of use. Similarly, trails have evolved, and many hikers use these trails rather than seeking an untrodden route. Most people tend to visit a small number of high profile locations.

### WORK TO DATE

A visitor survey was conducted in 1991. Another survey was conducted over the winter of 1994/95. A voluntary aircraft policy has been developed. Mooring buoys and potable water sources have been put in place. A monitoring program to evaluate visitor impacts was initiated in 1995.

### GOAL

To provide opportunities for visitors to have a safe and enjoyable experience without compromising the ecological and social carrying capacities of Gwaii Haanas.

### STRATEGIES

#### 1. Provide the information managers need to make decisions.

Establish a visitor activities database by collecting information on visitor needs, use patterns and levels of satisfaction.

Identify and monitor conflicts between users and the impact of visitors.

Conduct periodic visitor surveys to monitor the quality of the visitor experience.

#### 2. Implement cost-recovery for visitor services where practicable.

Identify specific costs related to delivery of visitor opportunities.

Determine market value for visitor opportunities.

Develop and implement a fee structure.





**3. Provide visitors with clear direction on acceptable use and appropriate activities.**

Conserve Gwaii Haanas in a wilderness state. The perpetuation of ecosystems with minimal human interference will be the primary objective. For the purpose of protection and management, construction of facilities will be kept to an essential minimum, including the necessary Watchmen camps, required operational facilities, and a Haida cultural camp.

Provide opportunities for visitors to experience, first hand, the area's natural and cultural heritage values, including the opportunity to experience remoteness and solitude.

Manage recreational activities so they do not conflict with each other.

Establish acceptable levels of visitor use and recommend controls necessary to maintain unimpaired ecosystems and a quality wilderness experience.

- require mandatory registration and visitor orientation before entering Gwaii Haanas
- study and monitor the relationships between visitor numbers, ecological impact, visitor experiences, and traditional Haida activities to determine acceptable visitor use levels
- develop a visitor quota and reservation system

**4. Encourage sensitive access to the Gwaii Haanas area to ensure the area's wilderness character is protected and its natural and cultural heritage are not compromised.**

Limit, through a voluntary code of ethics, noise and visitor conflicts.

Encourage the use of non-motorized forms of travel.

Minimize user conflicts to avoid impairing visitors' experiences and the area's wilderness character.

- encourage aircraft to use established flight corridors.
- encourage the use of commercial drop-off and pick-up locations that respect the environment and the visitor experience
- prohibit land or freshwater access by plane or helicopter except for management or emergency purposes
- minimize the impact of management-related activities whenever possible

Require no-trace camping and encourage random camping in order to disperse crowds and lighten impact on heavily-used areas.

Evaluate historic trails, such as Anna Lake, from a risk management perspective. Where trails are evolving, take action to reduce environmental impact.

Restrict party sizes to 12 people, including guides, on shore at any one time. Before landing at any Watchmen base camp, commercial operators will be expected to contact the base for permission to land.

**5. Provide essential visitor facilities in keeping with the wilderness atmosphere of Gwaii Haanas. Limit visitor infrastructure to basic facilities associated with protection, health and safety.**

Identify essential visitor needs and provide basic facilities for wilderness travel.

Design and locate facilities so as not to impair the natural and cultural heritage.

- develop criteria to evaluate proposals for new facilities
- screen all in-house initiatives according to the criteria
- Identify requirements for upgrading the existing Watchmen camps as part of the area planning program

Identify sources of drinking water and provide information on proper treatment.

Construct a boat launch and information board in Cumshewa Inlet to aid in safe departure.

Manage and control garbage by requiring users to pack-in, pack-out and deposit garbage in designated containers.

Manage and control human waste by encouraging use of intertidal zone and providing solar composting toilets in select high-use areas.



**6. Implement procedures to deal with possible emergencies concerning public safety and security.**

Implement an emergency response plan which describes basic accident prevention as well as search and rescue services, identifies requirements and incorporates the emergency communication role of the Haida Gwaii Watchmen.

- work cooperatively with other agencies to develop procedures

Evaluate and determine need for fixed roof permanent emergency shelter for public safety purposes.

- implement results as study recommends

Inform visitors of the skills, equipment and self-reliance needed for a safe and enjoyable visit.

Encourage visitors to file a sail plan with the Canadian Coast Guard.

**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- low visitor impact
- safe travel by knowledgeable visitors
- satisfied visitors who benefit from quality wilderness opportunities
- repeat visitors
- protected natural and cultural heritage



## 3.6 PROVIDING APPROPRIATE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

### CURRENT SITUATION

Gwaii Haanas provides a unique opportunity for visitors to learn about Haida culture and to experience the wilderness. One of the objectives of the South Moresby Agreement was to make the Islands "a world class tourism destination." While Islanders welcome new opportunities, they are deeply concerned that tourism development might spoil the present quality of life or divert attention and resources from the more promising options for a sustainable economy.

The Gwaii Trust Business Plan (1994) has defined a world class tourism destination as: "the preparation, design and interplay between the Islands community and the recreational traveller:

- the acceptability of recreational travellers is dependent upon the available service infrastructure and economic readiness.
- acceptable numbers of tourists will be determined by social and environmental and economic impact."

The Plan also defines culture as it relates to tourism as: "the interplay between tourism and the deliberate or incidental experience of culture.

- the values of this interplay will be measured by the benefits to culture
- the benefits to tourism are assured by the continuing and expanding Culture."

### WORK TO DATE

Business permitting systems have been in place for several years. The AMB is currently implementing a business licensing system. An interim cap has been placed on all current commercial operations in Gwaii Haanas.

### GOAL

To ensure that tourism is environmentally friendly, has a low impact, respects the ecological and spiritual values of Gwaii Haanas and benefits the Islands community.

### STRATEGIES

#### 1. Develop and implement a business licensing and control system for tourism activities.

Establish a process to judge the appropriateness and cumulative impact of any existing or new tourism activity. This process will be based on the following broad criteria:

- the range of experience opportunities and benefits that participants in the activity seek should provide a means of encouraging appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Gwaii Haanas' natural and cultural heritage values, and are consistent with the guiding principles and management goals of this plan
- the type and range of activity is compatible with the experience of others
- potential environmental impacts are acceptable and mitigatable
- the activity fits within the AMB's ability to control marketing position and trends
- Gwaii Haanas lends itself to supporting the activity
- there is flexibility to deal with changing management needs

Other considerations for new opportunities could include:

- there are no comparable opportunities outside Gwaii Haanas
- does not interfere with the local lifestyle
- provides benefits to local culture
- complements Islands and regional tourism objectives
- provides benefits to the local economy

The AMB may set out in a business licence or control system, the terms and conditions that specify any matter that is necessary for the preservation, control and management of Gwaii Haanas.



2. Market Gwaii Haanas' niche in the tourism industry as a combination of wilderness and Haida culture, a unique destination where travellers can experience the area's diverse natural and cultural heritage and appreciate its ecological, spiritual, social and aesthetic values.

Work with others to promote and present Gwaii Haanas as a remote wilderness area with limited facilities.

- explain that visitors must accept Gwaii Haanas as a natural area, not expecting it to be changed or modified for their convenience
- work cooperatively within the Islands community, current commercial operators and the tourism industry to foster an understanding and ways of benefiting from Gwaii Haanas as a special place and to market the area appropriately

Work cooperatively with Haida people to develop a spectrum of commercial opportunities that will focus on delivering a Haida perspective on Haida culture, spiritual values and the values of Gwaii Haanas.



3. Target visitors who are interested in experiencing Gwaii Haanas' natural and cultural heritage in an uncrowded wilderness setting.

Provide programs and services for visitors that enhance discovery and learning opportunities based upon the marine wilderness experience.

- target groups and individuals that are seeking discovery and learning opportunities for personal growth
- target groups and individuals that are seeking solitude, isolation and challenge in an undisturbed environment
- incorporate Haida culture, past and present, as integral to the management of Gwaii Haanas

Discourage visitation by people who have expectations that conflict with the values of Gwaii Haanas.

4. Design tourism activities that respect cultural traditions.

Ensure that tourism opportunities offered in Gwaii Haanas are compatible with traditional activities.

Ensure that visitor use is harmonized with Haida traditional activities.

Assist people in acquiring knowledge that encourages respect.

5. Enlist the support and active participation of the tourism sector in achieving and preserving ecological integrity by developing a market position that reflects Gwaii Haanas' wilderness and cultural niche.

Work with tour operators and the tourism industry to ensure that

- the wilderness is not compromised by overuse and unrealistic demands for development
- that promotion does not create false expectations

Make Gwaii Haanas management a model of appropriate tourism and judicious environmental management use throughout the Islands.

- encourage recognition of Gwaii Haanas' tourism niche within a broader Islands tourism context
- develop a liaison with Islands communities to ensure open and ongoing dialogue

6. Pursue development of integrated tourism strategies with our tourism neighbours.

Seek out all individuals, groups, agencies and organizations with vested interests in Gwaii Haanas and pursue the development of integrated strategies where appropriate, in order to achieve economies of scale while remaining true to the objectives of this plan.

Ensure the integration of plan objectives into larger regional strategies in order to complement rather than conflict with our neighbours.

Redirect people who are not prepared for wilderness travel in Gwaii Haanas towards other more appropriate Islands experiences.



## EXPECTED RESULTS

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- levels of use that are consistent with ecological, spiritual, social, aesthetic and economic values
- cooperative arrangements between the AMB and other tourism agencies
- a role for Gwaii Haanas in a sustainable tourism industry on the Islands
- public understanding of the role of sustainable tourism in the Islands economy
- tourism infrastructure that integrates into the natural and cultural characteristics of Gwaii Haanas



## 3.7 DEMONSTRATING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

### CURRENT SITUATION

There are contaminated sites and old industrial sites that pose a threat to public safety in Gwaii Haanas. In addition, large amounts of flotsam are deposited on the shores of Gwaii Haanas every year. Human waste is a problem at some campsites.

### WORK TO DATE

Volunteers, staff and contractors have collected tonnes of garbage from the shores of Gwaii Haanas. A solar composting toilet has been installed on Hotspring Island. Work has been undertaken to rehabilitate contaminated soil at the former Beban campsite on Lyell Island. A list of sites with potential public safety or environmental concerns has been compiled.

### GOAL

Continuously demonstrate the highest standard of environmental responsibility in all aspects of management in order to avoid, reduce or mitigate negative human impacts.

### STRATEGIES

#### 1. Consider the environmental implications of all management and operational decisions in Gwaii Haanas.

Develop an environmental action plan and conduct regular environmental audits of management practices.

Ensure that administrative facilities outside Gwaii Haanas and operational facilities in Gwaii Haanas, including construction and maintenance of operation, administration and related facilities, are consistent with an environmental action plan, to be developed.

#### 2. Meet or exceed the letter and spirit of environmental laws and standards that apply to Gwaii Haanas.

Monitor all activities to ensure they comply with codes, standards, conventions, legislation, policies, and the purpose and objectives of Gwaii Haanas.

Determine provincial accountability and liability for exclusion zones that have public health and safety implications.

Determine accountability and liability for public safety concerns and contaminated site clean-up





### **3. Purchase/use environmentally friendly products whenever possible.**

Use environmentally friendly products in administrative and operational activities.

- use recycled paper whenever possible
- investigate the use of efficient energy sources in federal government housing
- use recycled petroleum products or substitutes for petroleum products where feasible
- use biodegradable cleaners
- evaluate operational and administrative purchases based on most efficient use of resources

### **4. Seek cost-effective ways to reduce, reuse and recycle in day-to-day operations.**

Encourage reuse and recycling.

- continue recycling program in administrative office
- continue composting program in administrative office
- cooperate with other agencies in implementing a waste management and recycling program for the Islands

Use alternate energy sources, such as solar energy, to reduce petroleum dependence and noise pollution in Gwaii Haanas.

Determine a strategy to decrease the garbage build-up on the shores of Gwaii Haanas.

- determine source of garbage and provide education to decrease accumulation
- develop cost-effective collection strategies
- in association with partners, develop an education program aimed at minimizing waste washed up on the shores of Gwaii Haanas



### **EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies will mean that:

- Gwaii Haanas management demonstrates sound environmental management in administrative and operational activities
- through its actions, Gwaii Haanas management raises the standards of environmental stewardship on the Islands

## 3.8 MANAGING INFORMATION FOR INTEGRATED DECISION-MAKING

### CURRENT SITUATION

Prior to 1987, many non-integrated studies were completed in the fields of mining and logging, as well as in the academic domain. Since then, Gwaii Haanas management has developed databases on archaeology, ecological land classification, coastal classification and other scientific fields.

### WORK TO DATE

Gwaii Haanas staff have begun to integrate these inventories along with traditional knowledge. This information is forming a baseline and the resulting integration process is identifying where further work is needed to fill in information gaps.

### GOAL

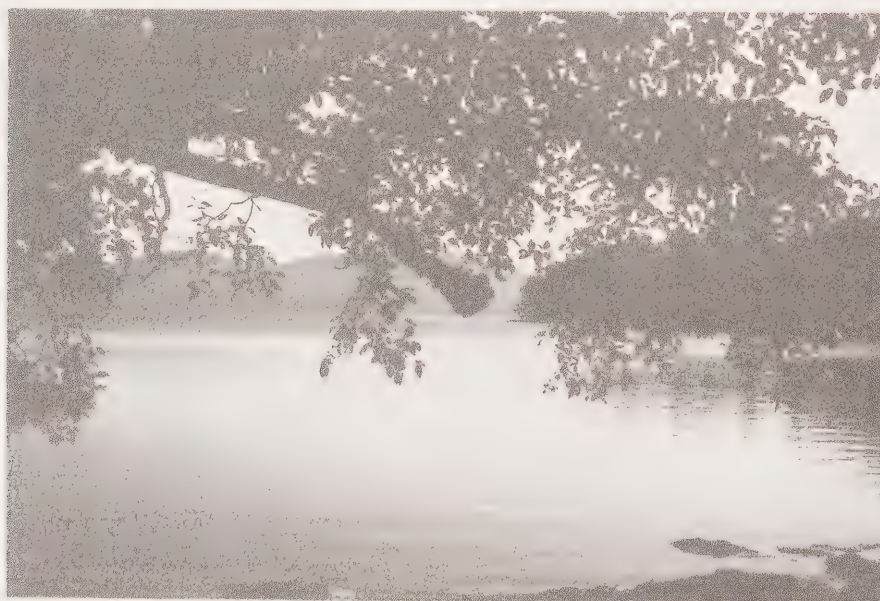
The AMB will use the best information that is available from all sources to make reasoned management decisions on projects that may impact on the land. Data gaps will be filled where possible to improve future decision-making.

### STRATEGIES

#### 1. Use GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to combine large and diverse collections of information within a single system.

Included in this matrix will be the following types of data, which are organized into layers of information that can be superimposed over each other using computer techniques:

- ecological land classification
- cultural heritage
- place names
- coastal classification
- stream and lake survey and monitoring data
- visitor use and impact data
- other agencies' data applicable to Gwaii Haanas



**2. Use site-specific information to determine potential suitability or conflicts of a particular activity or development within Gwaii Haanas.**

If the activity/development is found to be incompatible with any single data layer or any combination of layers, or if alternative management strategies cannot be found, then the initiative will not proceed unless viable mitigations can be developed.



**EXPECTED RESULTS**

Successful implementation of these strategies means that

- the best information at any given time is available to make decisions.



# PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

## 4.1 PLAN SUMMARY

This plan identifies goals, actions and expected results for managing Gwaii Haanas. Formal approval by the Government of Canada and the Council of the Haida Nation is required. The lifespan of this management plan is fifteen years, with formal reviews every five years. The AMB will be responsible for its implementation.

## 4.2 PLAN PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to actions items that

- contribute to the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity,
- contribute to the continuity of Haida culture,
- deliver essential health and safety services to the public,
- provide a stable business base for tourism activities, and
- initiate cost recovery fees

## 4.3 CONSIDERATIONS FOR DECISION-MAKING

In considering any decision relating to planning, management or operation of Gwaii Haanas, the highest standards of protection and preservation should be applied and any activities undertaken must be consistent with this management plan.

## 4.4 THE NEXT STEP

The expected results that have been identified in this plan will be achieved through the business planning process. The business plan will assign priorities for action, funding levels and responsibilities. After the business plan is complete, progress made will be published in the Gwaii Haanas Annual Report, and public input will be invited. The life span of the business plan is three to five years; this gives managers the flexibility they need to deal with changing realities.

An unprecedented cooperative effort has brought us this far, to the completion of a plan. This plan will guide the planning, operation and management of Gwaii Haanas into the 21st century.





## APPENDICES

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

In 1993, a study was done to examine the labour income and employment impacts from the operations related to managing Gwaii Haanas as a protected area during the period 1987–93. The study indicated that the economic activity associated with Gwaii Haanas produced an important stimulus to the Islands economy.

The study examined three sources of expenditures:

- Parks Canada operating and maintenance expenditures
- Parks Canada capital expenditures on infrastructure and facilities, and
- the spending by visitors directly attributable to the existence of Gwaii Haanas

Over the six year period, annual Parks Canada expenditures increased from under \$100,000 in 1987/88 to \$5.3 in 1992/93 for a total of \$13.4 million. The period encompassed the federal government's initial six year commitment toward the establishment of Gwaii Haanas. Visitor expenditures attributable to the presence of Gwaii Haanas are estimated at \$11.4 million over the same period. The number of persons visiting Gwaii Haanas increased during the first six years of operation from 1,419 in 1987/88 to 2,280 in 1992/93.

The development and operation of Gwaii Haanas generated an estimated \$10 million in labour and services income in the local area over the six year period. This resulted in an estimated 195 person-years of employment in the local area from 1987/88 to 1992/93 or an average 32.5 person-years of employment per year.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This draft strategic management plan has been assessed in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Process for Policy and Program Proposals.

As projects and initiatives required by this plan are developed, they will all undergo environmental assessments. The primary assessment tool is the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). A Gwaii Haanas environmental review process will be developed to assess projects that do not trigger CEAA.

Proposed initiatives and projects from this plan with the potential to produce environmental effects have been identified and are listed below.





### **Initiatives with Potential for Environmental Effects**

- Scientific research
- Wildlife/vegetation management
- Introduced species management
- Damaged site rehabilitation
- Field base/fuel storage depot establishment
- Cultural heritage management
- Haida Gwaii Watchmen camps/facilities
- Traditional harvesting
- Visitor facility development
- Tourism opportunity promotion
- Visitor activities

It is anticipated that potential environmental effects from these initiatives are mitigatable with known practices and technology. A detailed environmental assessment of the Terrestrial Area Management Plan has been conducted, the results of which are summarized in a companion document entitled Environmental Assessment of the Terrestrial Area Management Plan for Gwaii Haanas Haida Heritage Site and National Park Reserve.

### **Environmental Assessment Application**

The AMB will be rigorous in its application of CEAA and other environmental assessment tools. To show leadership in environmental responsibility, Gwaii Haanas facilities and operations will meet or exceed the provisions of all applicable environmental laws and standards.

### **Public Involvement**

A public registry of records relating to environmental assessments will be maintained to ensure convenient public access.





## GLOSSARY

**Biodiversity:** the variety and variability among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur.

**Cultural Continuity:** the evolving linkage between humans and their continuing relationship to the land and their history.

**Ecological Integrity:** a condition where the structure and function of an ecosystem are unimpaired by stresses induced by human activity and are likely to persist.

**Ecosystem:** all organisms and non-living things interacting in a geographic area.

**Environmental Audit:** the evaluation of activities, practices and interrelationships to mitigate potential and cumulative impacts on ecological integrity values.

**Guiding Principles:** a code that sets a foundation for managing Gwaii Haanas.

**Heritage:** Natural and cultural values transferred through the generations of a society and its individuals.

**Management Issue:** a matter that compels discussion and/or decisions.

**Paleoenvironmental Research:** looks at past conditions to explain the relationship between people and their surroundings.

**Purpose and Objectives Statement:** articulates intent and defines the goals for the protection and use of Gwaii Haanas.

**Sustainable Tourism:** an enlightening nature travel experience that contributes to conservation of the ecosystem while respecting the integrity of the host communities.

**Traditional Knowledge:** the depth of accumulated knowledge and an understanding of the human place in the natural world.

**Value:** intrinsic worth.

**Vision:** an inspirational view of a future that urges success in the efforts of today.

**World Heritage Site:** those cultural and natural properties which are considered to be of outstanding value to the world according to criteria drawn up by the United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization and which presently applies to Sgan Gwaii.







